

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 /100 W
-----083484 120545Z /13

R 111535Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5393
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3009

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US, GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO GREEK EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 2741 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL'S FUNDAMENTAL POINT THAT GREECE HAS AN INTEREST
IN STRONG, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND TURKEY IS A GOOD ONE AND ONE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN MAKING
TO GREEKS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. AT AN INTELLECTUAL LEVEL MANY
GREEKS ARE WILLING TO CONCEDE THE POINT. BUT IN THE
SUBSEQUENT DEBATE THEY REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT ANY CONCRETE
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GREEK OBJECTIVE IS SERVED BY LESSENING U.S. PRESSURES

2. GREECE'S DEALINGS WITH TURKEY ARE DOMINATED BY A
SENSE OF INSECURITY AND FEAR IN FACING A MUCH LARGER,
MORE POWERFUL AND, THEY BELIEVE, EXPANSIONIST NEIGHBOR. THESE
INSECURITIES, ROOTED IN HISTORY AND CULTURE BUT RENEWED
AND STRENGTHENED SINCE THE 1974 INVASION OF CYPRUS,

REST AT THE HEART OF THE GREEK CONCERN WITH THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. IF THE GREEKS WERE MORE CONFIDENT OF TURKISH INTENTIONS THEY WOULD REACT WITH LESS ALARM TO THE IDEA OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

3. THE GOG HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONSIDERED THE IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASED TURKISH ANGER AND HOSTILITY TOWARDS GREECE. BUT COMMITTED AS IT IS TO THE WORST CASE INTERPRETATION OF TURKISH CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS, AND GIVEN ITS PERCEPTION OF THE SIGNALS COMING FROM ANKARA, IT UNDOUBTEDLY PREFERS A CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO TO THE OTHER CHOICE IT ENVISIONS, A REVITALIZED TURKISH MILITARY THREAT.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE GREEK UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO END THE EMBARGO. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE WOULD STIMULATE ADDITIONAL GOG FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY OR DISCOURAGE GOG OPPOSITION TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO BY PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY ALLUDING TO THE INCREASED TURKISH THREAT TO GREEK SECURITY SHOULD THE EMBARGO CONTINUE. ON THE CONTRARY, SUCH A PLOY WOULD FURTHER CONFIRM GREEK SUSPICIONS ABOUT TURKISH INTENTIONS WHILE HEIGHTENING THE CONVICTION HERE THAT THE BEST GREEK COURSE IS TO DENY TURKEY ACCESS TO ARMS.
MCCLOSKEY
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS03009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-1138
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780468/aaaacfmt.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f8f61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 2741
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3000463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH REACTION TO GREEK EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE EMBARGO
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f8f61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014